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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fifty-second session
Geneva, 30 June–3 July 2014
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-second session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 30 June 2014*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-first session of the Working Group.
3. Progress in the implementation of the 2014–2015 workplan.
4. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention:
   (a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures;

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the Convention website (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=33280), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail (air_meetings@unece.org). On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge from the Pass and Identification Unit at the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section at the Pregny gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). A map is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website (http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please telephone the secretariat at 41 22 917 2596.

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(b) Challenges faced and progress made by countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with regard to accession and implementation;

(c) Emerging policy issues and scientific findings;

(d) Current policy issues: transport and air pollution.

5. Other business.

6. Election of officers.

7. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 30 June, afternoon

1. The Working Group on Strategies and Review under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution will be invited to adopt its agenda, as contained in the present document.[1]

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-second session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/111)

2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-first session of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Monday, 30 June, afternoon

2. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its fifty-first session.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/110)

3. Progress in the implementation of the 2014–2015 workplan

Tentative timing: Monday, 30 June, afternoon

3. The Working Group may wish to take note of the reports from the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues and their progress in implementing the workplan for 2014–2015 (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.2). The Working Group may also wish to take note of the report of the Task Force on Heavy Metals, notably its work on technical assistance to Parties in the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in implementing the Protocol on Heavy Metals, as amended.

[1] All documentation for the fifty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, including a list of participants, can be found on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=33280.

4. The co-Chairs of the Expert Group on Techno-Economic Issues will prepare a draft update to the mandate of the Expert Group to establish a task force to address emission abatement techniques for stationary and mobile sources in relation to atmospheric emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur dioxide, volatile organic compounds and particulate matter (PM), including black carbon, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants. The Working Group is expected to discuss the mandate for the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues and prepare a recommendation for consideration and adoption by the Executive Body at its thirty-third session.

5. The attention of the Working Group will be drawn to the decision at the Executive Body's thirty-second session to change the sequence of meetings of the main subsidiary bodies under the Convention as of 2015. The Working Group will be invited to discuss the implications for the organization and focus of its further work.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2014/1)

Report of the Expert Group on Techno-Economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2014/2)

Report of the Task Force on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2014/3)

4. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 1 July and Wednesday, 2 July

6. In the framework of the Convention, regular exchange of information is stipulated under article 8. At its thirty-second session, the Executive Body decided that the Working Group on Strategies and Review would continue to devote time each year for policy discussions related to the design and implementation of different regulatory, voluntary, economic or other measures relating to air pollution (see ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1, decision 2013/2). On the basis of the discussions under this agenda item, the Working Group will be invited to reflect upon recommendations for further enhancing the ratification and implementation of the Convention's protocols and amendments to them.

(a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 1 July, morning

7. The Working Group will be invited to exchange information on national, subregional and regional policies and strategies for the control of major air pollutants, in accordance with article 8 of the Convention, including exchanging experiences and best practices on policies, strategies and measures to implement the Convention's protocols and their amendments. On the basis of advance submissions by Parties, document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2014/4 provides background information, which the Working Group may wish to take into account in its discussion.

8. In accordance with Executive Body decision 2013/2, the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review are to be considered the format for reporting on strategies, policies, and measures referenced in article 5, paragraph 1, of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone. Moreover, Parties to the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen

Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on NO_x) and the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on VOCs) may utilize the time set aside during the annual session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to report on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies and measures to implement their respective obligations under article 8, paragraph 1 of the Protocol on NO_x and article 8, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on VOCs.

(b) Challenges faced and progress made by countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with regard to accession and implementation

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 1 July, afternoon

9. The Working Group will be invited to share information on the challenges faced by countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in acceding to the Convention's three recently amended Protocols and the implementation of their commitments. Furthermore, the countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia will be invited to share information on progress made in the implementation of the Protocols, such as the improvement of national inventory systems, the formulation of policy and legislation and the review of its implementation. This can include information on the implementation of capacity-building projects.

(c) Emerging policy issues and scientific findings

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 1 July, afternoon

10. Parties will be given the opportunity to share information on emerging policy issues, as well as recent scientific findings and their policy implications. Such issues can comprise current developments with regard to the meeting of the national emission ceilings and their revision and the World Health Organization air quality standards, as well as the recent finding of the International Agency on Cancer Research with regard to the carcinogenic effects of air pollution.

(d) Current policy issues: transport and air pollution

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 2 July, morning and afternoon

11. Transport-related pollution is one of the major sources of air pollution, in particular of NO_x and PM. High PM concentrations and continuing exceedances of acidifying and eutrophying pollutants are identified as a key challenge facing the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region in the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (see ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/18, annex, para. 13). Parties will be invited to exchange in particular information and experiences on national, subregional and regional policies, strategies and measures for the control of major air pollutants arising from the transport sector during a special session on air pollution and transport under this agenda item.

12. To foster an exchange of views and experiences among transport and air pollution policymakers and practitioners and to consider integrated policymaking conducive to sustainable transport and environment policymaking, the session will be organized in cooperation with the ECE Transport Division. It will include presentations on relevant activities under the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Environment and Health (THE PEP).

5. Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 3 July, morning

13. Delegations will be invited to reflect and provide comments on the organization of item 4, in particular the special session on current policy issues with a focus on air pollution and transport.

6. Election of officers

Tentative timing: Thursday, 3 July, morning

14. The Working Group is expected to elect its Vice-Chairs for 2014–2015. At its forty-ninth session, the Working Group elected Mr. A. Pilipchuk (Belarus), Ms. J. Kerr (Canada), Ms. A. Engleryd (Sweden) and re-elected Mr. I Angelov (Bulgaria) as Vice-Chairs.

7. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Thursday, 3 July, morning

15. The Working Group is expected to adopt its conclusions and recommendations agreed during the session.